

**WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:**

1. A system for transferring a digital image to a fulfillment center to generate a photographic product from said digital image comprising:

5 Instructions for directing a first processing unit to:

Maintain a list of at least one fulfillment centers available to generate a photograph from said digital image,

10 Receive a request from a photographer for a list of options to generate said photographic product from said digital image,

15 Display said list of options for generating said photographic product,

Receive an order from said photographer,

Transmit routing information to said photographer wherein said routing information is for transmitting said digital image to a one of said at least one fulfillment centers to process said order, and

Transmit said order to a fulfillment center processing unit of said one of said at least one fulfillment centers; and

20 A media readable by said first processing unit that stores said instructions.

25 2. The system of claim 1 wherein said instructions further comprise:

Instructions for directing said first processing unit to:

Receive said digital image from said photographer.

30 3. The system of claim 2 wherein said instructions to process said order further comprise:

Instructions for directing said first processing unit to:

Transmit said digital image to said fulfillment center processing unit.

4. The system of claim 1 wherein said instructions for directing said instructions further comprise:

Instructions for directing said first processing unit to:

Receive a confirmation from said photographer responsive to said digital image being transmitted to said fulfillment center server.

5. The system of claim 1 wherein said instructions for directing said first processing unit further comprise:

Instructions for directing said first processing unit to:

Determine said one of said at least one fulfillment centers to process said order from parameters received in said order responsive to receiving said order.

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6. the system of claim 1 wherein said instructions further comprise:

Instructions for directing said first processing unit to:

Receive a confirmation from said fulfillment center processing unit responsive to said order being processed.

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7. The system of claim 1 wherein said instructions further comprise:

Instructions for directing said first processing unit to:

debit a photographer account responsive to receiving said order.

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8. The system of claim 7 wherein said instructions further comprise:

Instructions for directing said processing unit to:

Receive a transfer of funds from said photographer, and credit said funds to said photographer account responsive receiving said funds are received.

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9. The system of claim 8 wherein said funds are transferred electronically.

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10. The system of claim 9 wherein said instructions for transmitting said order to said fulfillment center processing unit are executed responsive to receiving said funds.

11. The system of claim 8 wherein said instructions further comprise:

Instructions for directing said first processing unit to:

credit said funds received from said photographer to an account of said one of said at least one fulfillment centers responsive to receiving said funds.

5 12. The system of claim 1 wherein said instructions further comprise:

Instructions for directing said processing unit to:

Periodically debit a service charge to said account of said one of said at least one fulfillment centers.

10 13. the system of claim 12 wherein said instructions for directing said first processing unit further comprises:

Instructions for directing said first processing unit to:

Maintain a count of a number of orders that said one of said at least one fulfillment centers receives.

15 14. The system of claim 13 wherein said instructions further comprise:

Instructions for directing said first processing unit to:

Debit a transactional charge for said order responsive to said count being above a predetermined number.

20 15. The system of claim 1 wherein said instructions wherein said instructions to maintain said list of said at least one fulfillment centers comprises:

Instructions for directing said processing unit to:

Maintain a web page listing said at least one fulfillment centers with hyper-link text pointing to web pages listing said options for said at least one fulfillment centers.

25 16. The system of claim 1 further comprising:

Instructions for directing a photographer processing unit to:

Establish a connection with said first processing unit,

Receive said list of said at least one fulfillment centers from said first processing unit,

Display said list to said photographer,

Receive said request for said list of options of said one of said at least one fulfillment centers,

Transmit said request to said first processing unit,

Receive said list of options from said first processing unit, and

5 Display said list of options to said photographer; and

A second media readable by said photographer processing unit that stores said instructions.

17. The system of claim 16 wherein said instructions for directing said 10 photographer processing unit further comprise:

Instructions for directing said photographer processing unit to:

Receive an input of said order, and

Transmit said order to said first processing unit.

15 18. The system of claim 17 wherein said instructions for directing said photographer processing unit further comprise:

Instructions for directing said photographer processing unit to:

Receive said routing information from said first processing unit.

20 19. the system of claim 18 wherein said instructions for directing said photographer processing unit to:

instructions for directing said processing unit to:

transmit said digital image to said first processing unit responsive

receiving said receiving said routing information.

25 20. The system of claim 18 wherein said instructions for directing said photographer processing unit further comprises:

Instructions for directing said photographer unit to:

Transmit said digital image to said one of said at least one

30 fulfillment center using said routing information responsive to receiving said routing information.

21. The system of claim 20 wherein said instructions for directing said photographer processing unit to:

Instructions for directing said photographer processing unit to:

Transmit a confirmation to said first processing unit responsive to transmitting said digital image.

5        22. The system of claim 17 wherein said instructions for directing said  
photographer processing unit to:

Instructions for directing said photographer unit to:

Transmit an account identification to said first processing unit responsive to transmitting said order.

10        23. The system of claim 17 wherein said order includes a graphic instruction set for said photograph.

15        24. The system of claim 15 wherein said request includes parameters for selecting said one of said at least one fulfillment centers to process said order.

20        25. The system of claim 23 wherein said parameters include a location of a fulfillment center.

25        26. The system of claim 23 wherein said parameters include sizes for said photographic product.

27. The system of claim 23 wherein said parameters include graphics available for said photographic product.

28. The system of claim 23 wherein said parameters include a range of prices for said photographic product.

30        29. The system of claim 1 further comprising:

Instructions for directing a fulfillment center processing unit to:

Receive said order from said first processing unit,

Receive said digital image, and

Process said order to generate said photographic product; and

A media readable by said fulfillment center processing unit that stores said instructions.

30. the system of claim 29 wherein said instructions for directing said

5 fulfillment center processing unit further comprising:

Instructions for directing said processing unit to:

Store said digital image to a memory.

31. the system of claim 30 wherein said instructions for directing said

10 fulfillment center processing unit further comprising:

Instructions for directing said fulfillment center processing unit to:

Delete said digital image from memory responsive to processing said order.

32. The system of claim 30 wherein said instructions for directing said

processing unit further comprising:

Instructions for directing said fulfillment center processing unit to:

Delete said digital image from said memory responsive to a period of time being reached.

33. The system of claim 29 wherein said instructions for directing said

fulfillment center processing unit further comprising:

Instructions for directing said fulfillment center processing unit to:

Transmit a status of said order periodically to said first processing unit.

34. The system of claim 29 wherein said instructions for directing said

fulfillment center processing unit further comprising:

Instructions for said fulfillment center processing unit to:

Transmit an availability of said one of said at least one fulfillment centers to fulfill subsequent orders.

35. The system of claim 29 wherein said instructions for directing said

fulfillment center processing unit to process said order comprises:

Instructions for directing said fulfillment center processing unit to:  
Generate a proof from said digital image and a graphic instruction set.

36. The system of claim 35 wherein said instructions for directing said  
5 fulfillment center processing unit further comprises:

Instructions for directing said fulfillment center processing unit to:  
Read said graphic instruction set from said order.

37. The system of claim 35 wherein said instructions for directing said  
10 fulfillment center processing unit further comprises:

Instructions for directing said fulfillment center processing unit to:  
Receive said graphic instruction set from a photographer processing  
unit.

38. the system of claim 35 wherein said instructions for directing said  
15 fulfillment processing unit further comprising:

Instructions for directing said fulfillment center processing unit to:  
Receive said digital image from said first processing unit.

39. The system of claim 35 wherein said instructions for directing said  
20 fulfillment center processing unit to:

Instructions for directing said fulfillment center processing unit to:  
Receive said digital image from a photographer processing unit.

25 40. The system of claim 1 wherein said list of options includes photographic  
product sizes.

41. The system of claim 1 wherein said list of options includes types of  
30 paper available for said photographic product.

42. The system of claim 1 wherein said list of options includes graphics  
available to add to said digital image to generate said photographic  
product.

43. The system of claim 1 wherein said list of options includes said at least one fulfillment centers that provide particular options.

44. A method for generating a photographic product from a digital image  
5 comprising the steps of:

Maintaining a list of at least one fulfillment centers available to generate said photographic product from said digital image by a first processing unit;

10 Receiving a request from a photographer for a list of options to generate said photographic product from said digital image in said first processing unit;

15 transmitting said list of options for generating said photographic product from said first processing unit to a photographer processing unit;

20 Receiving an order from said photographer from said  
photographer processing unit;

Transmitting routing information to said photographer processing unit wherein said routing information is for transmitting said digital image to a one of said at least one fulfillment centers to process said order; and

25 Transmitting said order to a fulfillment center processing unit of said one of said at least one fulfillment centers.

45. The method of claim 44 further comprising the steps of:

25 Receiving said digital image in said first processing unit from said  
photographer processing unit.

46. The method of claim 45 further comprising the step of:

30 Transmitting said digital image from said first processing unit to said fulfillment center processing unit of said one of said at least one processing centers.

47. The method of claim 44 further comprising the step of:

Receiving a confirmation from said photographer processing unit responsive to said digital image being transmitted to said fulfillment center processing unit.

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48. The method of claim 44 further comprising the steps of:

Determining said one of said at least one fulfillment centers to process said order from parameters received in said order responsive to receiving said order in said first processing unit.

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49. The method of claim 44 further comprising the step of:

Receiving a confirmation in said first processing unit from said fulfillment center responsive to said order being processed.

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50. The method of claim 44 further comprises the step of:

debiting a photographer account by said first processing unit responsive to receiving said order.

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51. The method of claim 50 further comprises the step of:

Receiving a transfer of funds from said photographer, and crediting said funds to said photographer account by said first processing unit responsive receiving said funds are received.

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52. The method of claim 51 wherein said funds are transferred electronically.

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53. The method of claim 51 wherein said first processing unit transmits said order to said fulfillment center processing unit responsive to receiving said funds.

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54. The method of claim 51 further comprising the step of:

crediting said funds received from said photographer to an account of said one of said at least one fulfillment centers responsive to receiving said funds.

55. The method of claim 44 further comprising the step of:

Periodically debiting a service charge to said account of said one of said at least one fulfillment centers.

5 56. The method of claim 55 further comprising the step of:

Maintaining a count of a number of orders that said one of said at least one fulfillment centers receives by said first processing unit.

57. The method of claim 56 further comprising the step of:

10 Debiting a transactional charge for said order to said account of said one of said at least one fulfillment centers responsive to said count being above a predetermined number.

58. The method of claim 44 wherein said step of maintaining said list of said at least one fulfillment centers comprises the step of:

Maintaining a web page listing said at least one fulfillment centers with hyper-link text pointing to web pages listing said options for said at least one fulfillment centers.

59. The method of claim 44 further comprising the steps of:

Establishing a connection between said photographer processing unit and said first processing unit;

Receiving said list of said at least one fulfillment centers from said first processing unit in said photographer processing unit;

25 Displaying said list to said photographer by said photographer processing unit;

Receiving said request for said list of options of said one of said at least one fulfillment centers transmitted by said first processing unit in said photographer processing unit;

30 Transmitting said request from said photographer processing unit to said first processing unit;

Receiving said list of options from said first processing unit; and

Displaying said list of options to said photographer by said first processing unit.

60. The method of claim 59 further comprising the steps of:

Receiving an input of said order in said photographer processing unit; and

5 Transmitting said order from said photographer processing unit to said first processing unit.

61. The method of claim 60 further comprising:

Receiving said routing information in said photographer processing 10 unit from said first processing unit.

62. The method of claim 61 further comprising the step of:

transmitting said digital image to said first processing unit responsive receiving said routing information.

15 63. The method of claim 61 further comprising the step of:

Transmitting said digital image to said fulfillment center processing unit of said one of said at least one fulfillment centers from said photographer processing unit using said routing information responsive to receiving said routing information.

20 64. The method of claim 63 further comprises the step of:

Transmitting a confirmation from said photographer processing unit to said first processing unit responsive to transmitting said digital 25 image.

65. The method of claim 60 further comprising the step of:

Transmitting an account identification from said photographer processing unit to said first processing unit responsive to transmitting said order.

30 66. The system of claim 60 wherein said order includes a graphic instruction set for said photograph.

67. The method of claim 60 wherein said request includes parameters for selecting said one of said at least one fulfillment centers to process said order.

5 68. The method of claim 67 wherein said parameters include location of a fulfillment center.

69. The method of claim 67 wherein said parameters include sizes for said photograph.

10 70. The method of claim 67 wherein said parameters include graphics available for said photograph.

71. The system of claim 67 wherein said parameters include a range of prices for said photograph.

15 72. The method of claim 44 further comprising the steps of:  
Receiving said order in said fulfillment center processing unit from said first processing unit;  
Receiving said digital image by said fulfillment center processing unit;  
and  
Processing said order by said fulfillment center processing unit to generate said photograph.

20 73. The method of claim 72 further comprising the step of:  
Storing said digital image to a memory by said fulfillment center processing unit.

25 74. The method of claim 73 further comprising the step of:  
Deleting said digital image from said memory in said fulfillment center responsive to processing said order.

30 75. The method of claim 73 further comprising the step of:

Deleting said digital image from said memory responsive to a period of time being reached.

76. The method of claim 72 further comprising the step of:

5                   Transmitting a status of said order periodically from said fulfillment center processing unit to said first processing unit.

77. The method of claim 72 further comprising the step of:

10                  Transmitting an availability of said one of said at least one fulfillment centers to fulfill subsequent orders from said fulfillment processing unit to said first processing unit.

78. The method of claim 72 said step of processing said order by said fulfillment center processing comprises the step of:

15                  Generating a proof of said photograph from said digital image and a graphic instruction set.

79. The method of claim 78 wherein said step of generating said proof further comprises the step of:

20                  Reading said graphic instruction set from said order.

80. The method of claim 78 further comprises the step of:

Receiving said graphic instruction set from a photographer processing unit.

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81. the method of claim 78 further comprising the step of:

Receiving said digital image by said fulfillment center processing unit from said first processing unit.

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82. The method of claim 78 further comprising the step of:

Receiving said digital image from a photographer processing unit by said fulfillment center processing unit.

83. The method of claim 44 wherein said list of options includes photographic product sizes.

5        84. The method of claim 44 wherein said list of options includes types of said photographic product.

85. The method of claim 44 wherein said list of options includes graphics available to add to said digital image to generate said photographic product.

10        86. The method of claim 44 wherein said list of options includes said at least one fulfillment centers that provide particular options.

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